



Dulles Direct Newsletter April 2017

Welcome to the April edition of the Dulles Direct newsletter. I hope everyone had a great spring break.

The Board of Supervisors kicked off this month with final approval of the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget. I sent out a detailed analysis of the approved budget and the discussion of several key issues via e-mail earlier this month. If you missed that e-mail, you can find a copy by [clicking here](#).

Just this week, the School Board completed their reconciliation of the budget that was approved by the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors funded all but \$5.5 million of that request --over 99 percent-- and increased the school operating budget by 7.7%. However, as seems to be the case every year, there was considerable complaining about the fact that the Board didn't fund the entire request, and one School Board member went so far as to suggest that certain smaller schools in the west may need to be closed in order to close the funding gap.

I don't think it serves anyone well, especially parents and taxpayers, to paint a dire picture about the school budget that simply isn't warranted. Clearly, the actions taken during reconciliation demonstrate that it

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wasn't. When it came time to actually reconcile, it turns out that virtually none of the major items in the school budget had to be reduced at all. The School Board maintained planned salary increases as proposed--which were quite large in some pay bands--and accommodated the planned expansion of Full Day Kindergarten to 82%, which is greater than the 75% originally targeted for this upcoming school year and the maximum possible based on capacity. The reductions that were made were to anticipated fuel expenses and equipment purchases. However, even some of those items that were reduced from FY18 were able to be covered by unspent funds from the current fiscal year. One big ticket item that was removed was \$1.25 million for a one week pay supplement for classified 12 month employees due to the change in software being implemented--an item that I had been very critical of.

Last week, the Board of Supervisors hosted Youth in Government Day, where high school seniors spend the day learning about County government, leading up to a Board business meeting. Each year, I enjoy the opportunity to learn about those that attend and discuss their questions about County government over dinner. It is not unusual for them to pose some very tough questions about things that are going on in our district! For the Board meeting, I was joined at the dais by Mary Kamara, a senior at John Champe High School. Other Dulles District students that attended were Elena Becker, William Hom, Maeov Saadee, Aaron Suresh, Marissa Kaplan, Siddharth Nanda, Shannon Dart and Jacob Barnes. All of them are attending great colleges next year and have bright futures, and I hope they will consider public service in the future!



Matthew F. Letourneau
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Loudoun County Board of
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I was pleased to take part in the groundbreaking for the project to complete the missing segment of Mooreview Parkway between Old Ryan Road and Croson Lane. Construction is expected to take about a year. Along with Claiborne Parkway, this has been one of our most difficult projects due to gas lines that run across the property and I'm excited to finally get it underway. Both Mooreview and Claiborne will be critical pieces of road when Metro begins running to Ashburn in 2020.



To help kick off the project, I will be hosting my next Dulles Direct Town Hall meeting in cafeteria at Moorefield Station Elementary School (22325 Mooreview Parkway, Ashburn) at 7:00 pm on Tuesday,

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May 16th. I will be joined at the town hall meeting by County staff and by the construction team, including the contractors who will be doing the work. We will be sharing construction plans and timelines. Following the presentation on Claiborne Parkway, I will provide my normal update and take your questions.

I will have a booth at the South Riding Spring Festival Business Expo on Saturday, May 6, 1-5pm. The Expo is located in the parking lot of the South Riding Center at 42420 Unicorn Drive in South Riding. As always, I will be available to answer questions or discuss any issues that you may have. In addition to the Business Expo, there will be live music, food and drink vendors and rides for the kids.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Commission Permit Approved for HS-9, ES-29 and County Use Site

The Board of Supervisors approved a Commission Permit for HS-9, ES-29, and a 30 acre county use site at our meeting on April 20. The Commission Permit is required by the County's Zoning Ordinance to determine if the general location, character, and extent of the proposed uses are in substantial accord with the Comprehensive Plan.

As I had shared in earlier communications, the County and LCPS jointly purchased the site south of Braddock Road on Lightridge Farm Road for a future high school (HS-9), elementary school (ES-29), and 30-acre County public use site. The proposed high school is a 302,000 square foot, two-story building with capacity for 1,800 students with a planned opening in the fall of 2020. The facility will include a lighted stadium, lighted baseball and softball fields, tennis courts, track facilities, and two physical education fields. The proposed elementary school is a 105,000 square foot, two-story building with capacity for 928 students with a planned opening in the fall of 2023. The facility will include a softball and all-purpose field. The approximately 30-acre County public use site is currently depicted as a park use (active recreation

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park), but may be developed for any other County uses as determined by the Board of Supervisors.

CTB Consideration of Smart Scale Projects

The Commonwealth Transportation Board is currently considering a funding plan for transportation projects that were recently scored through the Smart Scale Program for funding from the State.

You may recall a discussion of this program last year when the extension of Northstar Boulevard from Route 50 to Brambleton had scored highly, but the CTB chose to direct funding towards a project on Route 7 in Fairfax County. While not pleased with that outcome, we had discussions with the CTB and Secretary of Transportation that led to our belief the project would receive consideration for this year. Unfortunately, Northstar didn't score as well as other projects and is not being considered for this kind of state funding. The Board is now working on other funding opportunities which will keep the project on schedule to begin construction within the next few years.

The good news is that this year, we have several other major projects that did receive high scores and are strong candidates for funding. Those include: improvements to the intersection of Waxpool Road at Loudoun County Parkway, Arcola Boulevard from Route 50 to Route 606, Westwind Drive from State Street to Ladbrook, park and ride lots and transit buses. The Board approved a statement that will be read into the record at the CTB's upcoming hearing by our Transportation and Land Use Chair. If you wish to weigh in to support these projects, you can attend the local meeting on Wednesday, May 3 at the VDOT District Office (4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030). The meeting begins at 6:00pm.

You may also email your comments to six-yearprogram@vdot.virginia.gov or mail them to Infrastructure Investment Director, VDOT, 1401 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219 by May 16, 2017. More information is available at www.vasmaryscale.org.

Loudoun County Small Business Week 2017

The sixth annual Loudoun County Small Business Week is coming up May 15-20, 2017. Each year, the County Department of Economic Development in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, the Mason Enterprise Center, the Small Business Development Center, and the Town of Leesburg hosts several events to "educate, celebrate, and accelerate" small businesses in Loudoun County.

For the sixth time, I will be sponsoring a resolution of the Board to recognize the week at our first meeting in May. For more information on how to take part, visit www.loudounsmallbiz.org.

DULLES DISTRICT UPDATES**Avonlea Commercial Project**

My inbox and Facebook page are filling up with questions regarding Peterson Companies' Avonlea project. I thought I would include an update in this month's newsletter.

I speak with Peterson Companies frequently about this project. It is truly one of their highest priorities, and the entire company is involved in working to make it a success. As I have shared in the past, Peterson has announced one anchor tenant so far, Cineopolis. Site work stopped due to issues with the soil itself. Peterson has now figured out a path forward to resolve that issue. At this point, they are still working to secure other anchor tenants which they need in order to begin vertical construction. They need to know what their tenants wishes are in terms of square footage and location within the development before they build.

On my Facebook page, I [recently shared information](#) regarding the major downturn in the retail sector nationwide. This issue is trickling down to many new projects, including Avonlea. Retailers that in the past were expanding are now shutting down stores. That has made the pool of potential tenants smaller, and the work even more challenging to attract them to South

Riding. In the restaurant space, they have had numerous conversations with various high quality restaurants, and while there is interest, completing leasing deals is taking a long time as companies are moving very cautiously in this environment.

I want to emphasize that Peterson is well aware of what the public wants, and they would like to deliver that. But they need interested tenants, and there are financial aspects to these projects that do play a role. Already, Peterson has invested millions into Avonlea, including a \$3 million widening of Tall Cedars Parkway.

I know everyone is anxious for good news, and when I have some, I will certainly share it. In the meantime, I know that the developer is working hard every day to bring good quality tenants to our area. It really isn't helpful to their efforts to perpetuate the discussion about the project's delays, so I don't typically provide updates until I have something new to report.

Stone Ridge HOA Roadway Improvements on Mineral Springs Drive

If you have a student at Mercer Middle School or use Mineral Springs Drive regularly, you have likely noticed new center islands that were recently constructed at several points along that road. These islands were constructed by the Stone Ridge HOA under a permit secured directly from VDOT as part of a pedestrian improvement project that is intended to help encourage slower driving in the area.

There were clearly some communications shortfalls in the implementation of the project between the HOA, VDOT and the County. This has led to some issues with parents, during the afternoon dismissal, not knowing how to handle pick up with areas no longer providing parking close to the school. I am well aware that major delays are persisting during afternoon pickup at Mercer.

I have been working with LCSO and VDOT to identify some areas that may need additional signage to make it

clearer for parents and how best to provide information to those utilizing the area during afternoon dismissal. LCSO has provided some additional feedback to the HOA for some changes that would help the situation and they are pursuing those with VDOT. We continue to work with all parties to make sure the situation around Mercer during drop off and pick up improves. School Board Representative Jeff Morse has been involved with Mercer administration as well.

Transit Advisory Board Appointee

Earlier this month, I appointed Charles Liles as the Dulles District appointee to the County's Transit Advisory Board. Charles lives in Dulles South and is a regular user of multiple forms of the County's transit throughout his weekly commute. I look forward to his contributions on the Transit Advisory Board as the County moves toward Metro operations in 2020.

The Transit Advisory Board advises the Board of Supervisors on matters pertaining to all modes of transit within Loudoun County including commuter bus service, local bus service, Metro connection and paratransit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dulles South Station Quarterly Meeting May 4

The Dulles South Station's next Quarterly Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 4, 2017 in the station's community room at 25216 Loudoun County Parkway in South Riding. The meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. and will last approximately one hour.

Topics at this meeting include a discussion of scams and identity theft crimes identified in Loudoun County, a presentation of the S.A.F.E. (School Awareness & Firm Enforcement) initiative that identifies and combats unsafe driving behaviors in school zones and a discussion of significant events from the station (i.e. Criminal case presentations, DMV2GO review, Medication Drop Box, and Dulles South Public Safety Day).

Household Hazardous Waste Events

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) events for the spring have been scheduled. All HHW events are held on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The 2017 Household Hazardous Waste spring collection schedule is as follows:

- **May 6:** Ashburn North Park & Ride, 45151 Russell Branch Parkway, Ashburn
- **June 24:** Freedom High School, 25450 Riding Center Drive, South Riding

Loudoun residents are welcome to bring HHW from their homes to these events. Typical HHW includes: fluorescent light bulbs, dry-cell batteries (alkaline, Ni-Cad, Lithium, rechargeable, etc.), oil-based paint/stain/varnish, paint thinner, mineral spirits, metal polish, rust remover, wood strippers and preservatives, furniture polish, waxes, sealants and solvents, bleach, pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, fertilizer, pool chemicals, muriatic acid, ammonia, mercury thermometers and thermostats, gasoline, gas-oil mixes, expired fuel, auto cleaners and flushes, brake and transmission fluid, windshield washer fluid, fire extinguishers, moth balls, pet care products, and photo chemicals.

The limit per household is 15 gallons of liquid HHW (container size not to exceed 5-gallon), and 40 pounds of solid HHW. Participants must have proof of Loudoun County residency such as a vehicle decal or applicable town sticker. For more information about the Household Hazardous Program, please call 703-771-5500 or visit www.loudoun.gov/hhw.

Keep Loudoun Beautiful

Each Spring, Keep Loudoun Beautiful (KLB) and volunteers pick up litter along hundreds of miles of roads and waterways in the County. They are able to recycle plastic, glass, metals, paper, tires, and electronics.

In 2016, KLB collected 216 bags of recycling, 615 bags of trash, 163 tires, and a lot of other bulky recycling and trash.

Registration for the upcoming Goose Creek clean up begins on April 1. The event will be held from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday, May 6.

For more information on this event and other clean ups, visit <http://www.keeploudounbeautiful.org>. You can also visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/keeploudounbeautiful/> or contact Carrie-Anne Mosley at camklb@gmail.com.

Smashing Walnuts 5th Annual Walk & Fitness Challenge

Help Smashing Walnuts "Crack the Cure" for Childhood Brain Cancer. Participants will take part in challenges that are specifically designed to combine fitness and fun! This family-friendly event offers you a unique opportunity to support a local non-profit dedicated to fighting childhood brain cancer while having fun in a creative and interactive environment.

Event will take place on Sunday, May 21, 11am - 2pm at Heritage High School in Leesburg. More information is available at www.smashingwalnuts.org.

Proper Disposal of Smoking Materials

Due to recent fires in our area caused by improperly discarded smoking materials, Loudoun County Fire and Rescue reminds residents of the need to properly dispose of smoking materials around your home.

Per the National Fire Protection Association, smoking materials (i.e., cigarettes, cigars, pipes, etc.) are the leading cause of fire deaths in the United States. You can avoid becoming a statistic by following some simple safety measures:

- If you smoke, smoke outside.

- Put your cigarette out in a metal or ceramic container filled with sand or use deep, wide ashtrays on a sturdy table.
- Soak cigarette butts and ashes in water to make sure they are really out before you put them in the trash.
- Never smoke in a home where oxygen is being used.
- Be alert! Don't smoke if you're sleepy, have been drinking, or have taken medication that causes drowsiness.
- Keep matches and lighters up high, out of children's sight and reach.



PUT A FINGER ON IT!

WORKING SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES.

Additionally, the Loudoun County Fire Marshal's Office recommends that every residence have working smoke alarms on each level of the home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Loudoun County Fire and Rescue's "Put a Finger on It" smoke alarm program offers free home safety surveys and smoke alarms Loudoun County residents. If your smoke alarms are broken or outdated we will replace them with battery powered alarms at no cost and install additional alarms as necessary. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call the department hotline 703-737-8093 or visit <https://www.loudoun.gov/index.aspx?nid=819>.

Reminder to Lock Vehicles



The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office is reminding residents to be extra vigilant in locking their vehicles. Criminals are searching for unlocked vehicles and valuables such as purses, electronics, cash or and firearms have been stolen. In some cases, the garage door opener in the vehicle has been used to get into the garage and then access the home.

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit is offering residents several tips for deterring thefts from vehicles:

- **KEEP YOUR VEHICLE LOCKED.**
Most stolen items are taken from vehicles that are left unlocked.
- Remove all items from your vehicle, including garage door openers, when not in use. When you cannot do this, put the items out of sight (inside a lockable glove box or trunk). If your vehicle has an integrated garage door opener, please keep the openers out of sight.
- Park inside your garage, where possible, and keep the garage locked. Or, try to park your vehicle near or under an illuminated area.

Report suspicious activity immediately by calling the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office non-emergency line at 703-777-1021 or call 9-1-1.

New System Provides Real-Time Updates on Sports Facilities

Loudoun sports league participants can now get real-time updates regarding the status of County athletic fields and gymnasiums used for practices and games. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services has launched a new system with RainoutLine.com for posting the daily status of fields and gyms at department sites and Loudoun County Public Schools. The status is updated at 3:00 p.m. on weekdays, 7:00 a.m. on weekends and more frequently as needed.

With the new system, users can:

- View the status of facilities at loudoun.gov/fieldstatus, RainoutLine.com or on a mobile device.
- Sign up for customized email alerts for the field(s) and gym(s) of their choice at RainoutLine.com.
- Call the phone line at 703-454-0011 and enter the extension for the field or gym of their choice.
- Download the free RainoutLine.com iPhone or Android mobile app (search Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Community Services).

Status options include open/game-time, delayed and closed, in addition to details like school blackout, weather delay and parking restriction. Facilities are listed alphabetically, starting with outdoor facilities.

Dulles South Food Pantry

The Dulles South Food Pantry has expanded its geographic boundaries to serve families in the Brambleton community who are in need of food assistance. Since its inception two years ago, the food pantry has served any person who resides in the school attendance zones for the Freedom High School and John Champe High School clusters in Dulles South. Thanks to the generous support the pantry has received from the community, the food pantry is pleased to begin serving the areas that have been assigned to attend the new Brambleton Middle School opening in 2017.

The food pantry is now open every Wednesday in the historic white chapel at Arcola United Methodist Church, 24757 Evergreen Mills Road, Dulles, VA 20166. On the first and third Wednesdays of the month, the pantry is open to walk-ins from 5-7pm. Other Wednesdays the pantry is open by appointment. Call 703-507-2795 or email info@dsfp.org to schedule a private appointment.

Since opening two years ago, the food pantry has distributed more than 150,000 lbs. of food and currently averages nearly 140 visits a month from local families. Additionally, the pantry provides weekend food to over 100 students in 10 different Dulles District schools. See the Dulles South Food Pantry's website at <http://www.dsfp.org/> for information on how you can help the food pantry fight hunger locally. The Dulles South Food Pantry Inc. is a multi-faith emergency food pantry providing nutritious food, personal supplies and other services to those in need in the Dulles South area regardless of income, faith or other criteria. It is an all-volunteer organization focused both on feeding the hungry and promoting the self-sufficiency of those it serves. Donations to the Dulles South Food Pantry, Inc. are tax deductible.

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